LOANS TO FARMERS IN GUJARAT BY NATIONALISED BANKS

2548. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan provided to the farmers by different nationalised banks in Gujarat during 1991-92 and 1992-93 ;

(b) the amount of loan provided to each farmer ;

(c) the number of farmers benefited therefrom;

(d) whether farmers have to face a lot of difficulties for getting loans in time;

(e) what is the time taken by the Banks in clearing the applications; and

(f) the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The information system of the Reserve Bank of India does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the amount of loans disbursed by nationalised banks (excluding State Bank Group) in the State of Gujarat during the year ended June 1992 (latest available) for agriculture and allied activities was Rs 185.84 crores. The number of accounts against which this amount was disbursed was 1,45,557.

(d) to (f) A number of steps have been taken with a view to increase flow of credit to farmers particularly small and marginal farmers. The important ones are :—

(i) Banks have been instructed that all loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000|- are to be disposed off within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000|- within 8 to 9 weeks.

(ii) To facilitate speedy disposal of applications the application forms are made available in regional languages. Terms and conditions regarding margin|security should be printed on the reverse of the application form itself.

(iii) All branch managers of banks are to be vested with discretionary powers to sanction loan proposals received from weaker sections without reference to any higher.

(vi) If there are any complaints regarding delay in disbursements of loan, the same are taken up with the concerned Bank.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEBT RELIEF SCHEME

2549. SHRI AHMED MOHAMMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers and landless agricultural labourers benefited under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 in Gujarat;

(b) the amount of relief provided under the Scheme to each individual;

(c) how many have still not been provided relief;

(d) how many applications are still pending with Government for providing relief; and

(e) what is the criteria followed in providing the relief ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) Under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990, public sector banks have provided debt relief to 2.02 lakh farmers and 1.48 lakh agricultural labourers in the State of Guiarat. Further, the Co-operative Banks and the Regional

Rural Banks have also extended debt relief to 7.90 lakh farmers and 0.35 lakh landless agricultural labourers in that State. The maximum amount of relief provided under the Scheme to each individual borrower is restricted to Rs. 10,000. The Scheme came to a close on 31-3-1991 in the State of Gujarat and the debt relief was provided by banks concerned to all eligible borrowers and not by Government. Government of India undertook to reimburse the public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks the amount of debt relief provided by them under the Scheme and also undertook to provide 50 per cent of the debt relief provided by the cooperative banks as grant and the other 50 per cent of the debt relief was provided by Reserve Bank of India through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development by way of loans at a concessional rate of interest to the co-operative banks.

(e) As per the provisions of the Scheme, only the following categories of the borrowers who availed of loans for undertaking agricultural activities including horticulture, forestry, dairy and animal husbandry, poultry farming, pisciculture, etc. and rural artisan activities including weaving, would be eligible for debt relief, if any one of undernoted conditions is satisfied :—

(i) All overdues as on 2nd October, 1986 and outstanding as on 2nd October, 1989 would be eligible for relief irrespective of occurrence of bad crop years.

(ii) In case of overdues which had arisen after 2nd October, 1986 and outstanding as on 2nd October, 1989, relief would be provided if the borrower had experienced two bad crop years, either consecutive or not, during 1987, 1988 and 1989, and the defaults had occurred during the bad crop years.

(ii) The loans outstanding as on 2nd October, 1989 of a borrower, who had expired on or before 2nd October, 1989 irrespective of experiencing the bad crop year.

(iv) The overdue loans outstanding as on 2nd October, 1989 of a borrower, who had been declared insolvent or whose petition was pending in the Court as on 2nd October, 1989, irrespective of bad crop years, for being declared insolvent.

(v) In the case of rural artisan activities, overdues as on 2nd October, 1989 which had arisen on account of loss of assets would be eligible for relief.

MERGER OF DA AS DP

2550. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to merge 20 per cent of D.A. as dearness pay payable to Central Government employees with effect from 16th September 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) from which date the question of merger of a part of DA has been under the consideration of Government;

(d) whether there is any proposal to make the merger of DA as DP effective from 1st January, 1993 for the benefit of Central Government employees who retired from 1st of January, 1993; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor and on what criterion the order has been made effective from 16th September, 1993?